

Building Bridges for Energy Code Partnerships



*Liz Christiansen,
Deputy Director
Iowa Department of
Natural Resources*

2002 State Building Energy Code Conference

Building Bridges Is Critical to Success

- *Why We Work on Environmental Issues*
 - Healthier future for our citizens
 - Clean air, water and land
 - Resources used productively
 - Economic opportunities





Iowa Department of Natural Resources

- *Our Vision*

- Leading Iowans in caring for our natural resources

- *Our Mission*

- To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Iowa



State of Iowa 2002 Leadership Agenda

- *Environmental Goals*
 - To use energy efficiently
 - To increase environmentally sustainable business practices



Building Energy Codes in Iowa

- *Environmental Benefits*

- Improved air and water quality
- Mitigation of global climate change
- Conservation of energy resources

- *Economic Benefits*

- Energy cost savings for building owner/occupant
- Smart business practices
- Economic development for energy-efficient industries



Building Energy Codes in Iowa

- *Six-Phase Educational Program by the DNR*
 - Targeting local government officials, home buyers and builders
 - Circuit Rider program
 - Community college demonstration program
- *Successes*
 - Five communities have adopted the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code
 - Other communities are participating in educational programs and creating local enforcement activities



Building Bridges With the Insurance Industry

- *Des Moines is third in the world for number of insurance companies*



Building Bridges With the Insurance Industry

■ *Important Statistics*

- Natural disasters represent 85% of all insured losses
- More than 50% of the losses from natural disasters have occurred since 1990
- The National Academy of Sciences says the Earth's atmosphere is getting warmer and human activity is largely responsible



Building Bridges With the Insurance Industry

■ *And More . . .*

- Global climate change is caused by rising levels of greenhouse gases
- 85% of carbon dioxide, the most prevalent greenhouse gas, comes from fossil fuel use
- Residential and commercial buildings account for 35% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions



Building Bridges With the Insurance Industry

- *The Bridge:*

- Linking the economics of insurance losses with energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings

“The insurance business is first in line to be affected by climate change . . . It could bankrupt the industry.”

- *Franklin Nutter, president of
the Reinsurance Association of
America*



Building Bridges With the Insurance Industry

- *DNR Strategy*

- Insurance industry focus groups
- Advisory committee
- Greenhouse Gas Guide for the Iowa Insurance Industry and CD-Rom
- Series of educational workshops



State of Iowa Sustainable Design Initiative

- *Goal*

- All new state-owned buildings will be constructed using sustainable design techniques and principles



www.sustainableiowa.org



Building Bridges

- *Building partnerships creates mutually beneficial solutions*



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